

Thank you Madame Chairman. My name is Brenda Pring representing Children's Hospital Colorado. I am here to testify on SB-8. I support SB-8. I live in Denver and am a medical doctor in a pediatric residency training program in Aurora, where I have worked for the last three years.

I thought the committee would like to hear from someone who provides direct patient care of children affected by SB-8. Like all Colorado pediatricians, I have a stake in the health of our children.

Throughout my training I have the opportunity to take care of infants, children, and adolescents in the outpatient, emergency room and inpatient settings at Children's Colorado and Denver Health.

An aspect that is unique to pediatrics is the early preventative care we provide to children, which is important for long-term health outcomes, saving costs later. Routine well-child care consists of monitoring growth and development and providing immunizations to protect against vaccine preventable diseases. This keeps children out of emergency rooms hospital admissions, which cost us all. Current standard of care includes eleven visits in the first two years, with exams as frequent as two months. These visits are key to ensuring appropriate growth and development.

I have provided a study published in the journal Pediatrics from 2007 that analyzed utilization patterns by Colorado children going on and off insurance around the time of CHP enrollment. Those children who had interruptions of insurance begin to look and act like the uninsured population in terms of utilization patterns and access, they have less access to a medical home, inability to obtain important prescription medications, and are less likely to seek routine medical care and greater use of sick and injury related visits.

I take care of patients every day and some of them have been negatively affected by this type of intermittent coverage. For example, an 8 year old girl with asthma without daily asthma medications who ends up in the emergency room for breathing treatments, which could have been prevented with her daily medication. Or a toddler with new developmental concerns that missed key developmental screenings which turned out to be autism. He had a delay to starting behavioral interventions, and those interventions can make a significant impact on his future productivity and well-being. In preventable situations like these, the system still pays and at an increased cost.

I encourage you to support SB-8 which will eliminate the waiting period and provide continuous important preventative care and decrease unnecessary use of the emergency room. This will in turn save money in the longterm by investing health and improve the quality of life of Colorado's children.